

Comments: The World History CA Curriculum Framework

Focus period: Modern History of Iran

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I received my Ph.D. from Cambridge in English and Comparative Literature in 1965, and I have taught more than forty years at Cambridge, Tehran, Berkeley, George Washington and the Catholic Universities. I have some twenty books in English, Persian and Turkish (original works and translation).

To: Dr. Thomas Adams,

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Why the new content is needed to be edited?

Iranian-American immigrants are a highly educated group of individuals and families, who contribute to the growth of California. This is true not only in California alone but, perhaps in a lesser degree, all over the U.S. But unfortunately the Iranian-Americans suffer from the negative publicity which is directed against Iran nowadays. In the past relations between Iran and the U.S. used to be very amicable and even today the young American teacher, Howard Baskerville, who was killed in Tabriz in 1909 fighting for Iranian democracy, is venerated as a national hero in Iran. He is often called the American Lafayette in Iran." In 1911, an ambitious American adviser, Morgan Shuster, was invited by a budding Iranian democracy to bring financial stability to Iran, but soon after he was ousted by the British and Russian governments. He wrote "*The Strangling of Persia*" (1912) which shows how Great Power interference shaped Iran's history.

Unfortunately the CIA involvement in 1953 in overthrowing the democratically elected Iranian Prime Minister, Dr. Mossadeq and what happened later brought these relations into a very unfortunate situation. Today Iran is constantly portrayed very negatively and Iranian-Americans bear the brunt of this Iran-bashing. Granted that the past 60 years of relations between Iran and the United States have been very tricky and fraught with mutual mistakes and misgivings. These relations are not often pictured candidly and accurately either in our school books or the media. This representation is mostly due to the advent of the Islamic government in Iran and the hostage crisis

of 1979, which in themselves were corollaries of earlier events. The Iranian immigrants in the US, who mostly have left Iran because of the Islamic government, should not bear any blame. Therefore, in the interest of the unbiased and even-handed education of American youths about the historical relations between the two countries, it is incumbent on the school system to provide a balanced view on this subject.